



HOMELAND SECURITY COMMITTEE

Statement of Subcommittee Chairman John Ratcliffe (R-TX) Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Protection Subcommittee

"Interagency Cyber Cooperation: Roles, Responsibilities and Authorities of the Department of Defense & the Department of Homeland Security"

November 14, 2018

Remarks as Prepared

Thank you Chairwoman Stefanik, I am excited to have the opportunity to hold this hearing with you. These joint events always provide a unique insight that would be hard to explore under a single purview.

We are here today to discuss something that is integral to our national security. Cybersecurity affects every single American on a daily basis.

That is because cybersecurity is national security. It is imperative that the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Defense work hand in glove to protect our nation's systems, and to provide assistance to our critical infrastructure partners.

That assistance comes in many forms, and that is part of the reason why we are here today. To explore the roles and responsibilities of the two departments, and to better understand how they can effectively and efficiently work together to keep our nation safe from malicious cyber actors.

Whether it be the Chinese stealing sensitive information about Navy Submarines or the Iranians attempting to target defense contracting systems, nation state actors remain poised to eke out a competitive advantage through any means possible.

That is why I am happy to have representatives from the Department of Defense here today. I look forward to hearing how they, as the Sector Specific Agency, are partnering with the Defense Industrial Base to ensure that our nations capacity to wage war remains unmatched.

I am also pleased to have a representative from the Department of Homeland here to lay out the multitude of roles that DHS has in this space. While it is unfortunate that Undersecretary Krebs could not be here, especially during this important week that CISA will be passed by congress, I am confident that Assistant Secretary Manfra will do a superb job at illustrating the Department's broad array of responsibilities and authorities.

Those include overseeing all sixteen critical infrastructure sectors, partnering with industry to share information and build capacity, and protecting federal networks from the daily inundation of cyber attacks.

The Department has statutory authority to carry out all of these responsibilities, and it is imperative that DHS continues to take the lead in this regard. A civilian led system embodies what the foundation that this democracy was built on.

Despite these individual roles, the most effective way to keep this country's cyber ecosystem safe, is through cooperation.

We cannot have a stove piping of efforts.

We cannot have a fractured set of agendas.

We cannot have a disjointed front.

We need to ensure cooperative approaches to cybersecurity. Approaches such as Section 1650 of the NDAA which allows for DoD personnel to assist Homeland Security with cybersecurity related efforts. This was used to help bolster DHS' preparedness in the lead up to the elections.

Or approaches such as Project Pathfinder, which seeks to keep our financial sector safe by streamlining information sharing and using it to "defend forward."

I have faith that your departments will work through any growing pains that you may encounter, and I look forward to hearing from you today on the successes we have had at keeping this nation safe.

Finally, as my last hearing as Chairman of this Subcommittee, I want to thank all of the CIP members, both Republican and Democratic, on their excellent work this congress.

You could say that the 115th congress has been defined by legislation and oversight of cybersecurity, and I believe our Committee has paved that path.

I hope we can carry this momentum and energy into the 116th and work in a bipartisan manner to ensure the integrity of our national security.

With that I thank our witnesses for appearing before us today, and I yield back.

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